

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 11, 2000

The Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Tenth and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear General Reno:

As you know, Florida Circuit Court Judge Rosa Rodriguez has scheduled a hearing for March 6 on a petition to grant temporary legal custody of Elian Gonzalez to his great uncle. In doing so, she ruled that the petition:

"Contains sufficient verified allegations that, if emergency relief is not granted and Elian is returned to Cuba, he would be subjected to imminent and irreparable harm, including loss of due process rights and harm to his physical and mental health and emotional well-being."

Elian Gonzalez's mother died trying to bring him to freedom in America. We believe that, at a minimum, he deserves his day in court. He deserves the opportunity to exercise every legal option available to him, and no actions should be taken that would preempt his right to due process.

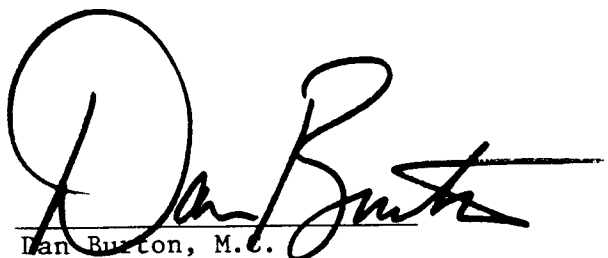
Last week, the Immigration and Naturalization Service set a date of January 14 for Elian's return to Cuba. There has been open speculation in the media that the Justice Department and the INS might not respect the State Court's jurisdiction in this matter, and might attempt to enforce the INS's decision without awaiting a ruling from the court. We believe that such a course of action would be a serious mistake.

We ask that you make a public commitment that the Justice Department will take no action to return Elian to Cuba until he has had the opportunity to exercise all of the legal options available to him. We do not believe that there is any justification for an attempt to short-circuit the judicial process. By publicly stating that you will take no action until judicial review of this matter has run its course, you will reduce the public anxiety that has surrounded this entire process and reinforce that, in the United States, the rule of law is paramount.

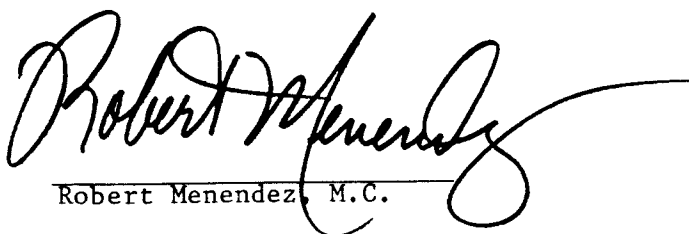
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Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,


Dan Burton, M.C.

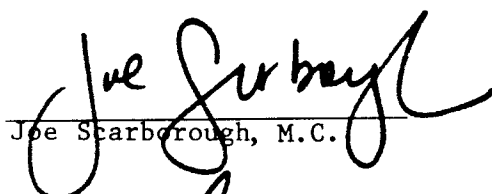

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, M.C.

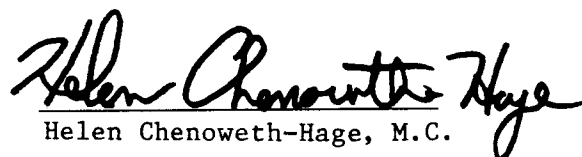

Robert Menendez, M.C.

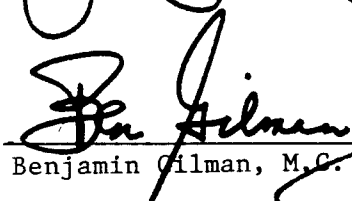

Patrick J. Kennedy, M.C.


Peter Deutsch, M.C.

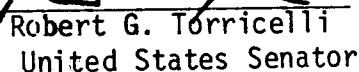

Tom Delay, M.C.


Joe Scarborough, M.C.


Helen Chenoweth-Hage, M.C.

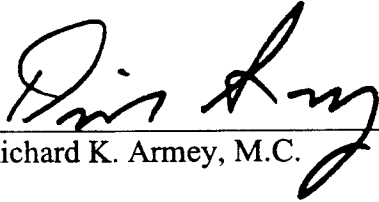

Benjamin Gilman, M.C.


Christopher Shays, M.C.

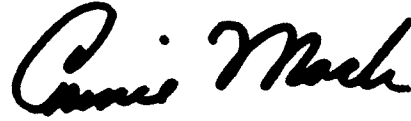

Robert G. Torricelli
United States Senator


Martin Frost, M.C.

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Richard K. Arney, M.C.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Connie Mack", written over a horizontal line.

Connie Mack, United States Senate

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill McCollum", written over a horizontal line.

Bill McCollum, M.C.